former scheme have already taken possession of the flats by making cash down payment. DDA is taking further action for issuing revised demand letters in respect of the remaining allottees as per the ratio for cash down and hire-purchase hasis as laid down in the brochures of the respective scheme.

Death due to pesticides-poisoning in the country

*272. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH
HANSPAL: SHRI D. B.
C.HANDRE GOWDA:

Will the (Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Pesticides take toll of 1000 each year", as reported in the Hindustan Times, dated 29th July, 1987; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to take any steps to avoid deaths due to Pesticide-poisoning and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) The Government have come across the news item captioned "Pesticides take toll of 10,000 each year" that. appeared in the Hindustan Times dated the 29th July, 1987.

(b) Government is aware of the fact that the pesticides are toxic in nature and can cause death and other associated hazards due to pesticide poison ing. if not handled properly. It is, therefore, the policy and the endeavour of the Government, to register only those pesticides whose efficacy and safety are proved. Being toxic in nature, pesticides have to be used judiciously in accordance with the prescribed detailed instructions and after observing well laid down safety precautions. In this strategy training of the State Government functionaries and farmers in the safe and proper handling of the pesticides has been given due emphasis.

To regulate the import, manufacture and use of insecticides an Act, known as Insecticides Act, was promulgated in 1968. Under the Insecticides Rules, 1971, framed under the said Act, detailed Guidelines have been laid down regarding the information/instructions to be printed on the labels and leaflets accompanying the container of a pesticide. These include precautions for its use, safety measures to be taken, symptoms of poisoning, first-aid measures, treatment, etc. in three languages i.e. English, Hindi and one of the regional languages. The training regarding safe handling of pesticides is imparted to the farmers by the Extension functionaries of the Government Departments as well as the pesticide manufacturers/ distributors from time to time. The Central Plan Protection Training Institute at Hyderabad gives due emphasis on safe handling of pesticides in its various courses of training to the State functionaries, who in turn, give training to the farmers. The Central Plant Protection Stations and Central Surveillance Stations under the Directorate of Plant Protection, Quarantine and Storage also adopt some villages where they hold practical demonstrations as well as impart training on safe handling of pesticides. State Governments also organise 'Krishi Melas' and 'Shivirs' where this particular aspect is given due emphasis.

The Registration Committee while granting any registration to a pesticide gives due emphasis regarding its safe formulation considering the mode of use and type of use.

Under section 26 of the Insecticide? Act, the State Government have sped fled by TNTotiflcation in the official Gazette, a person or class of persons for reporting all occurrence of poisoning (through the use of handling of

any insecticide) coming within his or their cognizance to such officer as may DS specified in the said Notification.

Financial support to tractor owners by NABARD

•273. SHRI RAJ H RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether N 1BARD has drawn up a plan to exte d 'refinance support ^o tractor owners in the country to undertake repairs of tractors; and

(b) if so, the di tails thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) and (b) In order to ensure optimum use hy prolongin; the economic life of tractors, the National Bank for Agriculture and ' lural Development (NABARD) has ntroduced a scheme of refinance for renovation/replacement of important spare parts of tractors from 1st July, 1987. Th$_e$ terms and conditions f c ■ such refinance are as follows: —

Eligibility of *h*

(i) Only those iarmer$_s$ who had purchased tracto; 3 earlier through bank finance and lad fully repaid their loans will b$_e$ el gible for obtaining loans for repairs >f their tractors from the branches of he same bank.

(ii) The tract< r for the repair of which loan is to >$_e$ obtained should be more than 7 yea s old but should not b$_e$ older than 2 years from the date of manufacture.

(iii) Bank loar for the purpose will be available one i only.

(iv) The total amount of loan under the scheme to bj issued by each bank thould not exc ed 10 percent .of the allocation given *.o it under Farm Mechanisa'ion Programme for that year. However, he refinance to banks for renoyation/replacement/repair will be in addition to allocation for regular farm mechanisation programme.

(v) The repairs of the damages caused to tractors due to accidents will not be financed.

Extent of loan

The total loan for renovation/repairs cf tractors consisting of replacement of spare parts should not exceed Re. 25,000/- and in very exceptional cases, where th$_2$ entire engine is to be replaced following the recommendations of the authorised service centre of the manufacturer or their dealer, a maximum loan of Rs. 45,000'- (being th$_e$ cost of the new engine and the cost of repairs and spar$_e$ parts) tan be considered.

Down Payment

Down payment in respect of loans for repairing of tractors will not be les$_s$ than 30 per cent of the cost of repairs.

Repayment period

Maximum period for repayment of the loan will be 5 years.

Agency for undertaking repair

(i) The tractors would b$_e$ got repaired in a service centre of the authorised dealer appointed by the manufacturer of th$_e$ particular make or from Agro-s&rvice centres of the State Agro-Industries Corporation.

(ii) Payment would b$_e$ made by the bank directly to the service station towards the cost of the rapairs and the cost of the spare parts.

Hypothecation of the tractor

The repaired tractors covered by 'he loan would be got hypothecated to the financing bank and such hypothecation would be registered with the Regional Transport Authority.

Insurance

The tractors would be adequately insured and th$_e$ relative policies would